

HIS CASE OF FRIGHT.

ONE MAN'S STORY OF HOW HE WAS COMPLETELY UNNERVED.

It was a Simple Enough Incident, Yet He Declares That the Simple Thought of It Has Often Since Brought the Sweat to His Face.

"Very few grown up people know what fright really means, except perhaps in dreams," said the quietest man in the group that had been spinning yarns in the hotel corridor. "When I speak of fright," he continued, "I don't mean alarm in any of its ordinary senses—mean that sort of brute panic that robs a man of speech, thought and volition; that turns him sick and cold; that leaves such a deep and indelible scar on his whole nervous organism that the very memory of it, years afterward, will make him quail and shudder. It is impossible, in my opinion, for mere danger to produce that feeling, even in the roughest cowards, for you must bear in mind that I am not afraid of anything, but I am endeavoring to describe, but something entirely different, something against which personal courage furnishes no immunity whatever. When a man is afraid, his instinct is to run away, to escape; when he is frightened, he has no such impulse—he simply suffers. I never had but one experience of that kind in my life, and the circumstances of the case were very commonplace. I'll tell you about it in as few words as possible.

"In 1889 I was holding a job as proof-reader in a big printing establishment in Chicago. The building then occupied by the concern was a rambling old barracks of a place, and the little inclosure where I worked was in the extreme rear of the upper floor, which was used as a composing room. Next to my cubby hole was another and considerably larger inclosure, where a religious weekly was set up on special contract. That second room had a sinister reputation, for the sufficiently startling reason that it had been the scene of two suicides. A former collector for the firm, who was short in his accounts, had gone there to blow his brains out, and later on a poor old printer, broken down and despondent, had cut his throat in front of the cracked looking glass which hung over the sink. All that happened long before my time, but the memory of it abided, and it seemed to invest the place with a peculiar air of gloom.

"I have gone into these details to give you an idea of the lay of the premises, and now I'll get to the point. One night, in the fall of the year, I had an unusual lot of proofs to read and decided to go back, after a late supper, and finish them up before going to bed. When I reached the building on my return from the restaurant, everybody had gone, and the place was as black and silent as a cave, but I let myself in at a side door and groped my way up stairs, fumbling in my pockets for a match. To my annoyance I didn't have a single one, but I remembered there was a boxful on a table in the office of the religious weekly, and, knowing the composing room pretty thoroughly, I started without hesitation for my den.

"The sky was stormy and overcast that night, and inside the building it was perfectly dark, so dark that I literally couldn't see my hand before my face. Nevertheless I reached the proof-room without any mishap and had just opened the door of the adjoining inclosure to get the matches when the thought of the two suicides flashed through my brain and sent an icy shiver down my spine. For a moment I had an impulse to back out and beat a retreat, and while I put that aside, I won't deny that I was considerably unnerved. The loneliness of the place, the pitch darkness, the whispering noises one can always hear in a big empty building at night and the memory of that ghastly story of self murder, all made my heart beat like a drum, and it required every particle of resolution I possessed to enable me to take a step forward.

"I moved slowly and cautiously, with my right arm extended to ward off obstacles, and had advanced perhaps a dozen paces when my clutched hand was laid lightly upon a human face. I could feel the nose and eye sockets against my fingers, and a stubble of beard pricked my palm. Now, gentlemen, this may seem like nothing as I tell it here, with the incandescents ablaze and people passing to and fro, but in that black, deserted room it was the incarnation of horror. I realized then and there, for the first time in my life, the real meaning of the word fright. If I had actually seen a ghost, it would have shaken me less, but that face against my hand in the dark—oh, I will never forget it, never, as long as I live!

"I recalled, and as I did so my fingers encountered the matchbox. By pure instinct I snatched out a dozen matches and struck them on the table. A gas jet was half a foot away, and in an instant I had it lit. Then I understood the situation, and you will smile, no doubt, when I explain. A printer, whom I knew very well and who was the sort of the office, was standing beside one of the cases in a drunken daze. He had been on a spree, and when the office was closed he was lying asleep, unnoticed, behind a pile of paper. My steps on the stairs had aroused him, and he staggered to his feet and stood there, silent and stupid, until I blundered against him in the dark.

"That's the story, and, as I said before, it seems like nothing to tell, yet the bare thought of it has brought the sweat to my forehead."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Kate Masteron's First Poem.
Kate Masteron, the poet and humorist, thus describes the beginning of her literary career:

"I was at school in Brooklyn when I first sent a poem to Judge, signing it Kittle K. It was accepted and published with an illustration, and my cup of joy was brimming. When I got a check for \$2, I effervesced. I then sent some verses to Puck, which were then edited by H. C. Bunner. They were also signed Kittle K., but were written from a masculine point of view, and, as I wrote a very gentlemanly conclusion that I was a boy. He sent me single very funny letters, and I replied, keeping up the idea that I was

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| <p>No. 1. RAZOR.</p>  <p>This razor we know from the most practical experience to be the best. Read the following: "This is to certify that I have used the two razors offered by McLaughlin & Co. as premiums, and have my best customers with them, and I guarantee them to be first-class razors and far superior to the razors given as premiums by other package coffee houses."</p> <p>AARON ETTLESON, Barber, Sherman House, Chicago. Notary Public for Cook County, State of Illinois. Dec. 12, 1890. A razor sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 6. SPOONS.</p>  <p>These are handsome teaspoons ornamented with a double design; embossed handles and made of first-class material. Come six in a package. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 9. LADY'S PEN KNIFE.</p>  <p>Two blades made of fine steel; fancy pearl handle; highly polished. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 12. PARING KNIVES.</p>  <p>One complete set consisting of three different paring knives; best quality steel blade; enamel handle; no better paring knife made. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 17. FEATHER BOA.</p>  <p>Made of the very best seal grain one piece leather with ornamental embossing. Has two regular and one card case compartments. Curved; very brilliant and rich. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 21. Lady's Pocket Book.</p>  <p>Made of the very best seal grain one piece leather with ornamental embossing. Has two regular and one card case compartments. Curved; very brilliant and rich. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> |
| <p>No. 2. BUTCHER'S KNIFE.</p>  <p>Very useful for kitchen use. Blade of the best quality steel, rosewood handle. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 7. HOUSE SCALE.</p>  <p>With scoop. A most practical scale for all purposes; handsomely enameled and striped. Weighs 24 lbs. by ozs. Occupies but little space and can be regulated by turning the brass screw on top. Sent by express, charges prepaid, on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 10. Gentleman's Knife.</p>  <p>Made of fine quality steel; stag or ebony handle; steel lined; highly polished; small pen and large spear blade. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 13. EMERY KNIFE SHARPENER.</p>  <p>Has steel guard and wooden handle; emery fastened with steel running full length of sharpener. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 14. SHEARS.</p>  <p>Eight inches long; made of fine quality steel, evenly tempered and will give the best of satisfaction as a cutter. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 22. COIN PURSE.</p>  <p>Made of fine kid leather with solid nickel riveted frame and is full leather lined. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> |
| <p>No. 3. CARVING SET.</p>  <p>Knife and fork, genuine stag handles; length of blade eight inches, made of crucible steel. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 8. HAIR CLIPPER.</p>  <p>Do not be without our combination bread knife and saw. Suitable for slicing bread, cutting meats and ham. The back can be used for sawing the bone. Blade 18 inches long, made of crucible steel. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 11. JACK KNIFE.</p>  <p>Full nickel plated, cuts 14 of an inch concealed spring; two extra springs with each clipper. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 15. SCISSORS.</p>  <p>Six inches long, made of fine quality steel; evenly tempered and will give the best of satisfaction. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 18. Lady's Belt Buckle.</p>  <p>Suitable for sash or belt, of filigree work, cluster center richly enameled in colors on gold. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 23. HAT PINS.</p>  <p>These are very stylish pins, set with jewels very brilliant and sturdy; will not bend or break; two pins in set and a very useful addition to any lady's jewelry case. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> |
| <p>No. 4. BREAD KNIFE.</p>  <p>Do not be without our combination bread knife and saw. Suitable for slicing bread, cutting meats and ham. The back can be used for sawing the bone. Blade 18 inches long, made of crucible steel. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 19. BAND RING.</p>  <p>This is a handsome hand chased and raised gold wedding ring of very pretty and unique pattern; cannot be sold from solid gold; will stand thorough acid test. It is made on the same principle as the Ross filled watch case and is warranted for five years. Measure your size on the ring scale. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 16. HARMONICA.</p>  <p>Here is something that will please the young as well as the old folks. A beautiful, silver reed harp containing thirty-two holes; nickel covers; if properly played will sound like a church organ. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 20. Parisian Diamond Ring.</p>  <p>This swell glove ring is now all the rage. Set with a genuine Parisian diamond. This stone is an excellent imitation of the genuine diamond, and its brilliancy cannot be equaled by anything but the genuine diamond. Settings are 14K gold and warranted for 2 years wear. Measure your size on ring scale. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 24. Neck-Tie Pins.</p>  <p>Ladies or gentlemen cannot get too many pretty tie or stick pins. These illustrated here are the very latest; set with Parisian cut stones very brilliant and handsome; designs horse-shoe or cluster; made of the very best rolled plate settings and warranted. Either of these sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | |
| <p>No. 28. TRIPPLICATE MIRROR.</p>  <p>Size of each mirror 3x4 inches. Handsomely enameled and bound with nickel covers; length when opened is 11 inches; useful and ornamental at the same time. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 31. LADY'S APRON.</p>  <p>Made of fine quality of white lawn with wide flounces and fancy lawn insertion; size 36x36 inches. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 34. PIPE.</p>  <p>Genuine French briar, large size built-dog shape, with vulcanite push stem. This stem has a double draft which divides the smoke and cools it; cannot possibly burn the tongue. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 65. GOLD FACED CLOCK.</p>  <p>Height 8 inches; finely finished in French satin gold plating; has a fine American movement, constructed like a watch; guaranteed to be a good time-keeper. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 66. GENTLEMAN'S WATCH.</p>  <p>Has extra fine works, in solid nickel-silver case; genuine American movement; balanced jeweled, handsome porcelain dial, stem wind and stem set; will last a lifetime and guaranteed to keep correct time. This watch is manufactured and guaranteed by one of the largest watch factories in the United States. This watch is far superior in every respect to watches offered as premiums by other package coffee houses. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 67. PATRIOTIC ALARM CLOCK.</p>  <p>Nickel-plated, runs thirty hours with one winding; beautiful, lithographed dial illustrating McKinley, Dewey and all the heroes of the late war. Made by one of the largest factories in the United States and guaranteed to keep good time. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> |
| <p>No. 29. Dewey Combination Set.</p>  <p>For both ladies and gentlemen; consisting of a pair of handsomely chased and engraved, needle-like buttons; three engraved beauty pins for shirt waists; one set of four collar buttons, consisting of one ball top button for the front, neck-the holder for the back and two lever buttons for the sleeves; also a pair of plain cuff buttons for round cuffs. Warranted for one year. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 32. CORSETS.</p>  <p>Extra fine long lean corset made of the very best material and modeled after the very latest patterns. Colors: white, cream and black. Sizes: 18 to 30 inches, waist measure. In ordering be sure to mention size and color. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 35. Ladies' Handkerchiefs.</p>  <p>Six handkerchiefs with colored borders. Size 12x13 inches. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 26. ALGERIAN TABLE SPREAD.</p>  <p>These can also be used for pillow covers. They are inlaid with gold tinsel, and are made in very pretty designs and will be an ornament to any lady's parlor. Size 18x36 inches. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 110. NECKTIES.</p>  <p>Here is something every man likes. In the latest stylish patterns and made of the best silk, serge lined, assorted colors; come in the following designs: neckties, four-in-hand, string tie and bow tie. Be sure to mention which you want. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 113. Lady's Bracelet.</p>  <p>The Nethercole pattern now so popular, of beaded twisted wire; Etruscan effect and heavily plated. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> |
| <p>No. 30. Tourists' Folding Curling Irons.</p>  <p>The most perfect folding curler made, the wires are fitted with securely hold the handles in perfect position; simple, durable and perfect in operation. Nickel plated, antique oak handles, especially adapted for use over lamps, gas, etc. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 33. Gentlemen's Handkerchiefs.</p>  <p>Four hem-attached with colored borders. Size 18x14 1/2 inches. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 36. Lady's Brooch.</p>  <p>The latest Parisian and Cluster Brooch; set with a very pretty colored center stone surrounded by Parisian diamonds, very handsome and brilliant. Made of the very best quality of rolled plate. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 27. ALGERIAN TABLE SPREAD.</p>  <p>This spread is simple and artistic and is made by the skilled workmen of Algeria. They come in very pretty designs and are inlaid with gold tinsel. These goods were first introduced at the World's Fair and have been the rage ever since, commanding fabulous prices. Size 18x36 inches. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 111. Elf Playing Cards.</p>  <p>Made of fine linen stock, highly enameled and finished, size 2 1/2x3 1/2 inches. They are peculiarly adapted to pleasure or in the following designs: tuck, four-in-hand, string tie and bow tie. Be sure to mention which you want. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 114. Lady's or Gentleman's Umbrella.</p>  <p>This is a silver trimmed, seven rib, steel rod, Paragon frame. Congo handle, umbrella; made of silk and linen, trimmed with case and tassels. When ordering be sure to mention whether a lady's or gentleman's. Sent either by post or express prepaid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 170 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> |
| <p>No. 37. DOLLS.</p>  <p>Fancy dressed dolls with movable arms and legs. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 38. PAPER DOLLS.</p>  <p>These dolls are by far the best ever gotten out and comprise eight dolls to the set. A set of these dolls could not be bought for less than 75c. They are two sets, A and B. When ordering be sure to state which set you want. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 25. VEGETABLE SLICER.</p>  <p>For slicing apples, pears, bananas, potatoes, cucumbers, turnips, radishes, cabbage, etc. Various novel and attractive designs are produced—perfect and durable. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 112. Scientific Diamond Box Kite.</p>  <p>Modeled after the Har- grave type. The most successful style of kite. Used by the United States Government in measuring phenomena at high elevations. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>No. 115. LADIES' GARTERS.</p>  <p>One pair in a box. Supporters made of silk face with nickel safety pin and nickel button and loop fasteners, all colors. Band Garters made of silk face with fancy buckle and silk ribbon bows. When ordering state which of these you want. Either sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 50 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> | <p>NOT IN A TRUST</p> <p>This is absolutely and positively the latest, best and most popular collection of twenty-five pieces of music ever offered, and it is only by special arrangements, and purchases of immense quantities, that we can give our friends the privilege of selecting from this strong and attractive list. Sent post-paid on receipt of a 2c. postage stamp and 15 "McLa" cut from the face of XXXX coffee wrappers.</p> |

"He wrote me, 'My dear boy, I cannot say if your poem will be published during your lifetime, as I do not know when you are going to die.'—Saturday Evening Post.

Base Apathy.
"Say, Thompson, did you ever notice that I was brutally indifferent to my children?"
"Certainly not. You're quite the contrary, Holmes."

"Well, do I look like a miscreant who would be only too glad to abandon to the mercy of strangers?"
"Of course not. Whatever put such an idea into your head?"
"Or have I the reputation of being so selfish that I would not disturb or exert myself in the slightest to secure their safety from the most desperate danger?"
"No, indeed. Who's been accusing you of such things?"
"My wife."

"Why, little Johnny got himself lost for a couple of hours the other day, and all I did was to notify the police, hire every private detective in town and rouse all the neighbors to help hunt for him?"
"Wasn't that enough?"
"No. She insists that I am a brutal, selfish miscreant and several other things because I refused to do all she wanted me to."

"Why, what more was possible?"
"Make the governor order out the militia to help him."—Harper's Bazar.

Where the Problem Comes In.
"You say you cannot afford to marry?" she suggested scornfully.
"Not at all," answered the chronic bachelor. "You entirely misunderstand me. Almost any one can afford to marry. But it doesn't necessarily follow that a man can afford to have a wife. The marriage is the simplest part of the programme."—Chicago Post.

His Only Love.
McJigger—What's the book you're reading?
Thingumbob—It's the story of the only man the author ever loved.
McJigger—Ah, it's by a woman, eh?
Thingumbob—No; by a man. It's his autobiography.—Philadelphia Press.

The Germ Theory.
Doctor of Old School—The child appears to be teething.
Doctor of New School—Impossible! The bacteriological diagnosis discloses no trace whatever of the characteristic teething bacillus.—Detroit Journal.